

From: mbkstaff [<mailto:info@montereybaykayaks.com>]  
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 9:13 AM  
To: MLPAComments  
Subject: North Coast Siting

To: Department of Fish & Game  
From: Monterey Bay Kayaks  
Re: MLPA Initiative/ North Central Coast Project.

My name is Cass Schrock and I am the founder/owner of Monterey Bay Kayaks with my late husband Jeff Schrock. Since 1985, our company has specialized in providing ocean recreational and educational kayaking programs with the aim of environmental stewardship.

In the current process examining the North Central Area, we ask that the Initiative pay close attention to the needs of kayak anglers along the San Mateo coastline. A few key launching and fishing areas are under scrutiny and we ask they be kept open and available for angling. These areas include, but are not limited to Pigeon Point, Bean Hollow, Pescadero area, and Lindemar Beach in Pacifica. These are among the very few spots on that part of the coast that feature protected launch areas for kayaks adjacent to productive fishing areas and as such should remain open for the limited low-impact use engendered by kayak anglers.

We at Monterey Bay Kayaks are committed to providing recreational activities that foster awareness of our marine environment. Kayaking and kayak fishing, allow people to engage in a sport that is by its very nature, sustainable and low impact, the same goals of ocean conservancy. Keeping access open and available to these users is critical to raising public awareness about the preservation of these precious resources.

We have added kayak fishing events since 2005 as part of our eco- tourism programs of naturalist led tours and classes. We support and encourage kayakers to learn about fishing, and for anglers to experience fishing from the kayak. Ocean kayak fishing, as a growing sport in California, is an important part of our eco-tourism economy. It is low impact on the environment but generates high levels of revenue for the small businesses that support them. Most important, we know the people that engage in the sport are the best stewards for sustainable fishing. No one cares or understands the need for the preservation of our marine Sanctuary than the people who love to fish.

We would also like to take this public comment opportunity to clear the record and state that we, as a business, support and encourage fishing in general as a legitimate use and pursuit of our marine resources. In the public testimony sessions for Phase One of the MLPA process, a former employee mis-represented Monterey Bay Kayaks when expressing her personal opinions urging additional fishing closures. Her posted opinion is not shared, supported, and was not initiated by Monterey Bay Kayaks. If she had known of our current kayak fishing programs, she would have realized the inconsistency of making such a public testimony.

Once again, Monterey Bay Kayaks supports ocean conservancy programs that encourages a wide range of diverse recreational activities including the reasonable and lawful pursuits of sport and commercial fishing as regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

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